

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a mainframe;
a photoreceptor;
an exposing unit that exposes a surface of the photoreceptor to form an electrostatic latent image; ~~and~~
a developing unit that develops the electrostatic latent image by supplying a charged developer on the surface of the photoreceptor having the electrostatic latent image formed thereon; and
an evacuating unit that evacuates the developing unit from a moving path of the photoreceptor by moving the developing unit along a direction away from the photoreceptor during loading and unloading of the photoreceptor,
wherein the photoreceptor is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe separately from the developing unit.
2. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a photoreceptor cartridge that retains the photoreceptor and is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe while being separated from the developing unit.
3. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the photoreceptor includes a plurality of photoreceptors for a plurality of colors; and
the photoreceptor cartridge integrally retains the plurality of photoreceptors.
4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the photoreceptor cartridge is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe by moving the photoreceptor along in a direction ~~that is~~being exactly parallel to or substantially ~~in-parallel~~ to a conveying direction of a transfer medium, the transfer medium being a medium onto which the charged developer is transferred from the photoreceptor.

5. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the photoreceptor cartridge includes a charger that uniformly charges the surface of the photoreceptor prior to formation of the electrostatic latent image.

6. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the mainframe includes a guide part that guides movement of the photoreceptor cartridge at the time of loading and unloading; and
the photoreceptor cartridge includes a guided part guided by the guide part.

7. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe by moving the developing unit along in a direction that crosses a conveying direction of a transfer medium and is substantially perpendicular to or exactly perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the photoreceptor, the transfer medium being a medium onto which the developer is transferred from the photoreceptor ~~and that is perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the photoreceptor.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3,
wherein the plurality of photoreceptors includes a photoreceptor corresponding to black color and being exchangeable separately from the other photoreceptors.

10. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the ~~mainframe~~main frame by moving the developing unit along in a direction different from the direction ~~along~~ in which the photoreceptor is moved to be loaded and unloaded.

11. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe ~~main frame~~ by moving the developing unit along in a direction that is substantially opposite or exactly opposite to the direction in which the photoreceptor is moved to be loaded and unloaded.

12. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a first openable member provided on the mainframe; and

a transfer unit that transfers a developer image carried on the photoreceptor onto a transfer medium and that is supported by the first openable member;

wherein the mainframe has a first opening that is opened and closed with the first openable member; and

the photoreceptor is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe through the first opening.

13. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the photoreceptor faces the transfer unit at a transferring position; the exposing unit is disposed on a side of the photoreceptor opposite to the transferring position; and

the exposing unit overlaps with the photoreceptor in a substantially horizontal or an exactly horizontal direction.

14. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the exposing unit includes a laser scanner.

15. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 14,
~~wherein the developing unit includes a plurality of developing units; wherein:~~
the laser scanner includes a plurality of laser scanners each having a casing;
the developing units and the laser scanners are arranged alternately with each
other in a substantially vertical or an exactly vertical direction; and

the developing units are loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe along
surfaces of the casings of the laser scanners.

16. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 15,
wherein the mainframe includes a guide member that guides the developing
unit being loaded therein and unloaded therefrom; and

the developing unit includes an engaging part that engages with the guide
member.

17. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13,
wherein the exposing unit includes an LED array.

18. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the mainframe includes an operating part;
the mainframe is provided with a second openable member on a side on which
the operating part is disposed;

the mainframe includes a second opening that is opened and closed with the
second openable member; and

the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe through
the second opening.

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 12,
wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member that carries
a developer; and

the developer remaining on the photoreceptor after the transfer unit transferring the developer image onto the transfer medium is recovered by the developer carrying member.

20. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the developing unit and the photoreceptor are independently loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe.

21. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the developing unit and the photoreceptor are loadable in and unloadable from ~~at~~ the same side of the mainframe.

22. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the developing unit includes a plurality of developer carrying members that carry the developer;
the photoreceptor includes a plurality of photoreceptors;
the photoreceptors are loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe in a predetermined direction; and
the photoreceptors and the developer carrying members are arranged alternately with each other in a direction exactly or substantially perpendicular to the predetermined direction.

23. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:
a first openable member provided on the mainframe; and
a transfer unit that transfers an developer image carried on the photoreceptor onto a transfer medium and is supported by the first openable member;
wherein the mainframe has a first opening that is opened and closed with the first openable member; and

the photoreceptor is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe through the first opening.

24. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the photoreceptor faces the transfer unit at a transferring position; the exposing unit is disposed on a side of the photoreceptor opposite to the transferring position; and

the exposing unit overlaps with the photoreceptor in a substantially horizontal or an exactly horizontal direction.

25. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the exposing unit includes an LED array.

26. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the developing unit includes a plurality of developer carrying members;

the photoreceptor includes a plurality of photoreceptors; and the developer carrying members and the photoreceptors are alternately arranged in a conveying direction of the transfer medium.

27. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member; the photoreceptor includes a photoreceptor drum; the photoreceptor drum opposes to the developer carrying member at a developing position;

the photoreceptor drum opposes to the transfer medium at a transfer position; and

a line passing through a rotation center of the photoreceptor drum and the developing position is substantially perpendicular to a line passing through the rotation center of the photoreceptor drum and the transferring position.

28. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20,
wherein the developing unit includes a first grab handle; and
the photoreceptor is accommodated in a photoreceptor unit having a second
grab handle.

29. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 28,
wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member;
the first grab handle is provided on the developing unit at both ends in an axial
direction of the developer carrying member; and
the second grab handle is provided on the photoreceptor unit at both ends in an
axial direction of the photoreceptor.

30. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 21,
wherein the photoreceptor is accommodated in a photoreceptor unit loadable
in and unloadable from the mainframe;

the mainframe includes a guide part that guides the photoreceptor unit being
loaded ~~therein~~ therein and unloaded therefrom;

the photoreceptor includes an engaging part that engages with the guide part;
and

the guide part includes a positioning member that positions the photoreceptor
unit at a deepest part thereof.

31. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 30,
wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member; and

the mainframe includes an urging part that urges the photoreceptor unit positioned by the positioning member to the developer carrying member.

32. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member that carries a developer; and

the developer remaining on the photoreceptor after the transfer unit transferring the developer image onto the transfer medium is recovered by the developer carrying member.

33. - 39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: the photoreceptor is configured to be unloadable by moving the photoreceptor along a direction that is substantially perpendicular or exactly perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the photoreceptor, and

the developing unit is configured to be unloadable by moving the developing unit along a direction that is substantially perpendicular or exactly perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the developing unit.

41. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the developing unit and the photoreceptor are in contact with each other when developing the electrostatic latent image formed on the photoreceptor.

42. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a mainframe;
a photoreceptor;
an exposing unit that exposes a surface of the photoreceptor to form an electrostatic latent image;

a developing unit that develops the electrostatic latent image by supplying a charged developer on the surface of the photoreceptor having the electrostatic latent image formed thereon;

wherein:

the photoreceptor is configured to be unloadable from the mainframe by moving the photoreceptor along a direction that is substantially perpendicular or exactly perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the photoreceptor,

the developing unit is configured to be unloadable from the mainframe by moving the developing unit along a direction that is substantially perpendicular or exactly perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the developing unit,

the photoreceptor and the developing unit are loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe independently of each other,

a belt that contact with the photoreceptor is provided in the mainframe, and during unloading, the photoreceptor is moved from the mainframe along a direction that is towards the belt provided in the mainframe.

43. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42, further comprising:

a photoreceptor cartridge that retains the photoreceptor and is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe while being separated from the developing unit.

44. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the photoreceptor includes a plurality of photoreceptors for a plurality of colors; and

the photoreceptor cartridge integrally retains the plurality of photoreceptors.

45. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 43,

wherein the photoreceptor cartridge includes a charger that uniformly charges the surface of the photoreceptor prior to formation of the electrostatic latent image.

46. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the mainframe includes a guide part that guides movement of the photoreceptor cartridge at the time of loading and unloading; and the photoreceptor cartridge includes a guided part guided by the guide part.

47. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 43, further comprising: an evacuating unit that evacuates the developing unit from a moving path of the photoreceptor by moving the developing unit along a direction away from the photoreceptor during loading and unloading of the photoreceptor.

48. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein the plurality of photoreceptors includes a photoreceptor corresponding to black color and being exchangeable separately from the other photoreceptors.

49. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe by being moved along a direction different from the direction in which the photoreceptor is moved during loading and unloading.

50. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe by moving the developing unit along a direction substantially opposite or exactly opposite to the direction along which the photoreceptor is moved to be loaded and unloaded.

51. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 49, further comprising:

a first openable member provided on the mainframe; and

a transfer unit that transfers a developer image carried on the photoreceptor onto a transfer medium and that is supported by the first openable member;

wherein the mainframe has a first opening that is opened and closed with the first openable member; and

the photoreceptor is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe through the first opening.

52. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the photoreceptor faces the transfer unit at a transferring position; the exposing unit is disposed on a side of the photoreceptor opposite to the transferring position; and the exposing unit overlaps with the photoreceptor in a substantially horizontal or an exactly horizontal direction.

53. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein the exposing unit includes a laser scanner.

54. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 53, wherein the developing unit includes a plurality of developing units; the laser scanner includes a plurality of laser scanners each having a casing; the developing units and the laser scanners are arranged alternately with each other in a substantially vertical direction; and the developing units are loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe along surfaces of the casings of the laser scanners.

55. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 54, wherein the mainframe includes a guide member that guides the developing unit being loaded therein and unloaded therefrom; and

the developing unit includes an engaging part that engages with the guide member.

56. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein the exposing unit includes an LED array.

57. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the mainframe includes an operating part; the mainframe is provided with a second openable member on a side on which the operating part is disposed;

the mainframe includes a second opening that is opened and closed with the second openable member; and

the developing unit is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe through the second opening.

58. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member that carries a developer; and

the developer remaining on the photoreceptor after the transfer unit transferring the developer image onto the transfer medium is recovered by the developer carrying member.

59. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the developing unit and the photoreceptor are loadable in and unloadable from the same side of the mainframe.

60. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the developing unit includes a plurality of developer carrying members that carry the developer;

the photoreceptor includes a plurality of photoreceptors;

the photoreceptors are loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe in a predetermined direction; and

the photoreceptors and the developer carrying members are arranged alternately with each other in a direction exactly perpendicular or substantially perpendicular to the predetermined direction.

61. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42, further comprising:

a first openable member provided on the mainframe; and

a transfer unit that transfers an developer image carried on the photoreceptor onto a transfer medium and is supported by the first openable member;

wherein the mainframe has a first opening that is opened and closed with the first openable member; and

the photoreceptor is loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe through the first opening.

62. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 61,

wherein the photoreceptor faces the transfer unit at a transferring position;

the exposing unit is disposed on a side of the photoreceptor opposite to the transferring position; and

the exposing unit overlaps with the photoreceptor in a substantially horizontal direction.

63. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 62,

wherein the exposing unit includes an LED array.

64. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 61,

wherein the developing unit includes a plurality of developer carrying members;

the photoreceptor includes a plurality of photoreceptors; and
the developer carrying members and the photoreceptors are alternately
arranged in a conveying direction of the transfer medium.

65. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 61,
wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member;
the photoreceptor includes a photoreceptor drum;
the photoreceptor drum opposes to the developer carrying member at a
developing position;
the photoreceptor drum opposes to the transfer medium at a transfer position;
and
a line passing through a rotation center of the photoreceptor drum and the
developing position is substantially perpendicular to a line passing through the rotation center
of the photoreceptor drum and the transferring position.

66. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42,
wherein the developing unit includes a first grab handle; and
the photoreceptor is accommodated in a photoreceptor unit having a second
grab handle.

67. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 66,
wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member;
the first grab handle is provided on the developing unit at both ends in an axial
direction of the developer carrying member; and
the second grab handle is provided on the photoreceptor unit at both ends in an
axial direction of the photoreceptor.

68. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 59,

wherein the photoreceptor is accommodated in a photoreceptor unit loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe;

the mainframe includes a guide part that guides the photoreceptor unit being loaded therein and unloaded therefrom;

the photoreceptor includes an engaging part that engages with the guide part;
and

the guide part includes a positioning member that positions the photoreceptor unit at a deepest part thereof.

69. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 68,
wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member; and
the mainframe includes an urging part that urges the photoreceptor unit positioned by the positioning member to the developer carrying member.

70. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 42,
wherein the developing unit includes a developer carrying member that carries a developer; and
the developer remaining on the photoreceptor after the transfer unit transferring the developer image onto the transfer medium is recovered by the developer carrying member.

71. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the belt is an intermediate belt.

72. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the belt is a transfer belt.